

II. REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 55-72 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 61, and 69 are independent.

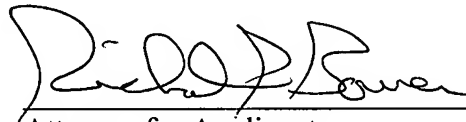
Applicants have added new Claims 55-72 to afford themselves a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. The new claims are fully supported in the specification and drawings, and are believed to be allowable over the art of record in the case.

Claim 1 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,183,506, for the reasons discussed on page two of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the ground that pending Claim 1 is patentably distinct from Claim 1 of the '506 Patent.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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